News Release U.S. Department of Justice United States Attorney District of Rhode Island



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## Providence man is sentenced to 63 months in prison for a 34-kilogram cocaine conspiracy

A federal judge has sentenced **Jose Cabreja**, of Providence, to 63 months in federal prison for trafficking in 34 kilograms of cocaine. State police detectives working with a federal task force seized the cocaine last August after Cabreja drove it to a self-storage bin in Warwick. It was one of the largest cocaine seizures ever made in Rhode Island.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres imposed on February 11 in U.S. District Court, Providence. Federal charges are pending against a codefendant.

In November, Cabreja, 24, of 239 Union Avenue, pleaded guilty to a two-count federal indictment charging him with conspiracy and possessing with intent to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine.

At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen G. Dambruch said that the government had proof that, on August 15, Cabreja drove a BMW SUV containing cocaine into a self storage unit in Warwick and, about 20 minutes later, drove a Nissan Maxima, also containing cocaine, out of the facility.

Shortly after Cabreja drove out of the storage facility, state police detectives working with the **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force** stopped the Maxima and seized ten, one-kilogram packages of cocaine from secret compartments in the vehicle. Detectives subsequently seized 24 kilograms of cocaine from the BMW SUV at the storage facility.

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Cocaine-trafficking charges are pending against **Hector Santana**, 24, of 120 Peace Street, Providence. He is detained in federal custody pending resolution of the charges.

The **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force**, which is led by the **FBI** and the **Rhode Island State Police**, investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen G. Dambruch is prosecuting the case.

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